

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7414

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR PLOS TD BR

SUBJECT: TRINIDAD-BRAZIL FISHING AGREEMENT

REF: POS 1531, JUNE 27, 1974

1. TRINIDAD & TOBAGO AND BRAZIL HAVE SIGNED A NEW THREE-YEAR BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PERMIT T&T SHRIMP TRAWLERS TO OPERATE IN BRAZILIAN WATERS. THE NEW AGREEMENT REPLACES ONE ORIGINALLY NEGOTIATED IN 1972 WHICH, AFTER AN EXTENSION, EXPIRED IN 1974. IT PROVIDES FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TRAWLERS DURING 1975 FROM THE PREVIOUS 20 TO 28 AND THEN A PHASING DOWN TO 22 IN 1976 AND 17 IN 1977. T&T VESSELS WILL BE GRANTED A CONCESSIONAL RATE ON THE ANNUAL LICENSE FEES OF \$1,360 EACH COMPARED WITH THE STANDARD FEE FOR FOREIGN VESSELS OF \$3,400 BUT THE FEE WILL STILL BE HIGHER THAN THE \$900 CHARGED UNDER THE OLD AGREEMENT.

2. IN LINE WITH THE GRADUAL REDUCING OF THE NUMBER OF T&T VESSELS UNDER THE AGREEMENT IS A PROVISION THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT VENTURES TO EXPLOIT THE BRAZILIAN FISHERIES. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT AFTER THE AGREEMENT EXPIRES, T&T VESSELS WILL NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO FISH IN BRAZILIAN WATERS UNLESS THEY

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ARE PART OF A JOINTLY OWNED COMPANY. IN ADDITION, THE

AGREEMENT ALSO PROVIDES FOR JOINTLY-SPONSORED MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS OFF THE COASTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES. OTHER FEATURES OF THE NEW AGREEMENT ARE: 1) AN 85-FOOT LIMIT TO VESSELS; 2) PROHIBITION ON USE OF ELECTRONIC FISHING EQUIPMENT; 3) THE RIGHT OF THE BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES TO BOARD SUSPECT VESSELS AND TO SEIZE ILLEGAL FISHING EQUIPMENT AND CATCHES; AND 4) CONDITION THAT T&T VESSELS MAY UNLOAD CATCHES FROM BRAZILIAN WATERS ONLY IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO. RICH

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